

Remarks

Applicants have amended the claims of the present application in the manner which is believed to address all of the Examiner's objections. The Examiner will see that the independent claims have been each changed to include the feature that the request/response transaction between the originating gateway and the gatekeeper is used to determine a packet network address (for example a IP address) of at least one gateway which can be contacted to reach a destination terminal. Basis for this feature can be found in figures 6 and 7 and corresponding passages of the specification. For example, it can be seen that the request message "ARQ (CSC_Galway_1, ESN 343 1234)" which comprises the dialed number 343 1234 is responded to with the response message "ACF (callSig 47.153.4.61)" which contains the IP address 47.153.4.61. The advantage of using the request/response transaction that occurs between a gateway and its gatekeeper is that the configuration of packet network addresses of gateways which may be contacted to reach a destination terminal having a terminal identifier may be placed centrally at the gatekeeper rather than at the plurality of gateways. This is easier to manage than having the configuration placed in each of the gateways. Furthermore, in preferred embodiments, by using the H.323 admission request and admission confirm messages, no extra signaling overhead between the gateway and the gatekeeper is imposed.

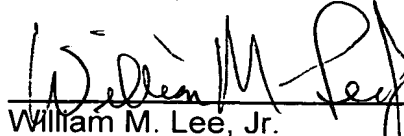
None of the prior art cited by the Examiner describes or suggests the newly amended claim features. Therefore applicants request favorable consideration and look forward to receiving a Notice of Allowance in due course.

To perhaps aid the Examiner in consideration, also attached is a publication of Nortel Networks, the assignee of the present application. This is in response to the request concerning prior art mentioned in the background section of the specification. The

attached document is not prior art in that it post dates the date of invention of the present application, but it does help explain further the background.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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